

REMARKS

The Official Action of December 13, 2005, and the documents relied upon as prior art have been carefully reviewed. The claims in the application remain as claims 1, 4-7 and 10 of those originally filed, plus new claims 11-18. These claims all define patentable subject matter and should be allowed. Favorable reconsideration and allowance are therefore respectfully requested.

For the record, the present application claims internal and domestic priority and benefit of applicant's earlier filed provisional application 60/422,879 filed November 1, 2002.

Claims 5 and 6 have only been objected to as being dependent on a rejected base claim, but are otherwise indicated as being "allowable if rewritten in independent form... ." Applicant accordingly understands that these claims are deemed by the PTO to define novel and unobvious subject matter.

These claims are being maintained in their dependent forms, with claim 1 having been amended above to incorporate the subject matter of claim 2, and claim 5 having been amended

to depend from claim 1 which now corresponds to claim 2 rewritten in independent form.

Claim 1 has been rejected under Section 102 as anticipated by Coram USP 6,361,480 (Coram). This rejection is respectfully traversed.

Claim 2 has not been rejected on the basis of Coram. As claim 2 has now been incorporated into claim 1, thus converting claim 1 to claim 2 in independent form, the rejection does not apply, and need not be further addressed.

For the record, however, applicant does not agree that Coram anticipates claim 1 in its original form, as applicant does not agree that the connector 28 of Coram is an elongated connector as claimed.

New claims 11-18 have been added, and these also define novel and unobvious subject matter over Coram. New claim 11 is an independent claim which recites the subject matter of original claim 1 and adds to it certain additional features which are clearly not possessed by the Coram device. Support for features of these claims appears in the drawings; page 3, line 11, and page 5, line 6; page 3, lines 20 and 21; and page 3, lines 15 and 21.

Claims 1 and 2 have been rejected under Section 102 as anticipated by Chang U.S. design patent 478,136. In

addition, claims 3, 4 and 7-10 have been rejected as obvious under §103 from Chang in view of Kessler USP 5,092,809. These rejections are respectfully traversed.

Chang is not prior art. Attached hereto is a Declaration under 37 CFR 1.131 in the name of the present inventor and applicant, Brian D. Kessler, which establishes that the present invention was made prior to the effective date of Chang. As Chang is not "prior art", both rejections are not applicable.

Accordingly, withdrawal of both rejections is in order and is respectfully requested.

The prior art made of record and not relied upon by the PTO has been noted, including those documents which are stated to disclose devices having structures readable on at least claim 1. Applicant respectfully disagrees and notes for the record that none of such documents have been applied against any of the claims, and applicant believes that all such documents cited but not applied by the PTO are insufficiently material to warrant their application against any of applicant's claims.

Applicant believes that all issues raised in the Official Action have been addressed above in a manner which should lead to patentability of the present application.

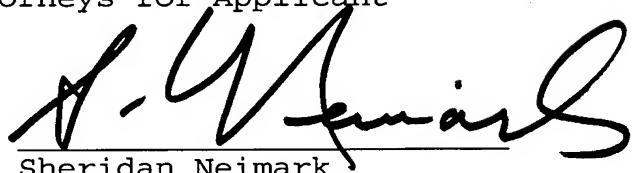
Appln. No. 10/677,296
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Favorable consideration and early formal allowance are
respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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